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The co-benefits for health of investing in active transportation

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Abstract:

Amid growing concerns about the impact of rising obesity and physical inactivity levels, climate change, population growth, increasing traffic congestion and declining oil supplies, multiple sectors are now promoting active transportation as an alternative to driving. This paper considers the health benefits and co-benefits of investing in active transportation, enabling comparison of policy options to optimise societal objectives aimed at creating healthy, socially and environmentally sustainable communities. Policies promoting the use of both energy-efficient motor vehicles and increased active transportation would almost double the impact on greenhouse gas emissions and would reduce disease burden by increasing physical activity. More co-benefit and economic analyses research is required to inform 'joined-up' policy solutions.

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Resource Description

Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Unspecified Exposure

Air Pollution: Particulate Matter, Other Air Pollution

Air Pollution (other): NOx

Geographic Feature: M

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: M

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Australasia

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): ■

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

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A focus of content

Health Impact: M

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cancer, Cardiovascular Effect, Diabetes/Obesity, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory

Effect

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Other Mental Disorder

Respiratory Effect: Asthma

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Resource Type: **☑**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: M

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified